

FREE

needles for prisoners

Issue #32

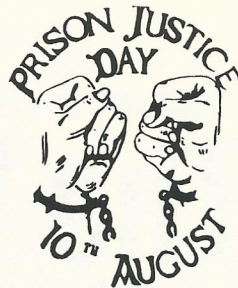
Aug 9 to 22

Circulation 1600

Toronto's Anarchist Bi-Weekly **Ecomedia**

BULLETIN

Ecomedia, P.O. Box 915, Stn F, Toronto Ont. M4Y 2N9



Prison Justice Day:

Tear Down the Walls

On August 10, 1974, Eddie Nolan ended his life in the solitary confinement unit (the hole) of Milhaven Penitentiary near Kingston, Ontario. Eddie, was serving a life sentence with his earliest release date still 7 years away. He had been promised that he would be released back into the general population, but his solitary dragged on and on. Eddie killed himself by slashing his wrists. He had finally lost all hope.

On the first anniversary of Eddie Nolan's death, prisoners at Milhaven held a one day hunger strike and refused to work to protest prison conditions. Since then prisoners and people on the outside have joined them to draw attention to the violence, racism, and brutality of the prison system which produces an appallingly high death and self mutilation rate. Eddie is remembered on Prison Justice day

In Toronto this year the day will be marked by a caravan to several different city prisons and an evening of speakers and music. We have reports from at least one area prison (Metro East) that the people inside will be fasting and on a work stoppage.

For those of us on the outside the day's agenda is as follows:

1. Prison Justice Day Caravan

A convoy of vehicles will hold protests outside several Toronto area prison facilities. The caravan with banners and placards, will depart from the front of Bickford Park High School (on Bloor across from Christie Pits at 12:30 p.m. If you have a vehicle or would like to ride with the caravan, contact 868-6535

2. Rally

At 5:00 p.m. meet the Prison Justice Day caravan and show your solidarity

(cont on page 4)



Stop the Spray

Residents of the New Truro Road in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia, have united in a strong stand against the proposed spraying of a woodlot in their neighbourhood.

Although the woodlot, owned by the David Stevenson Family of Truro, has been approved for spraying by the Lands and Forest Dept. and the Dept. of the Environment with the herbicide Roundup-Vision, it does not satisfy the Truro Road residents.

"They're not spraying those herbi-

cides near my children," stated Debbie MacBurnie, a Truro Rd. resident.

Hannelore Deffren, a West German immigrant, said at a meeting last week "if they (the sprayers) want to see what the herbicides do to the earth, they should see the damage which is now in West Germany."

The Truro Rd. residents have signed a petition stating their opposition to the use of herbicides in any form on the forests. They recieved no

(cont on page 4)

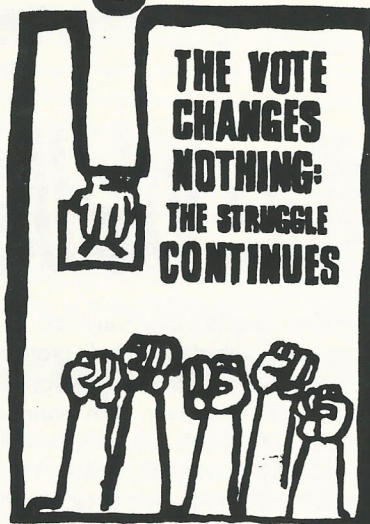
The Voting Game



One of the questions which most divides anarchists is whether to boycott elections or vote for the party or candidate who will do the least amount of harm. So let's take a good look at the current U.S. campaign to see what's at stake. Candidates have divided themselves into two teams, the Republicans and the Democrats, both of which regularly bash the poor in "Third World" countries, but which have slightly different (albeit complimentary) attitudes towards their domestic poor. The Republicans use their terms in office to hurt the poor as much as possible, the Democrats to apply enough band-aids to forestall an open revolt.

In the current Utne Reader (#28), two Texas bureaucrats summarize the results of the current Republican administration's poorbashing:

- since 1981, more than 620,000 productive farm families, 20% of the total, have been put out of business.
- the rate of small business failures has jumped dramatically in the 80s, with 56,000 going under in 1986 alone.
- 621 banks have failed since 1981, compared to 170 from 1945 to 1981.
- an estimated 12 million Americans have lost their jobs since 1981, due to plant closings and layoffs, with 38% of them remaining unemployed a year later.
- more than 44% of the new jobs created since 1981 pay less than \$7,400 a year, 35% less than a poverty-level income for a family of four.
- the number of Americans having to work at jobs paying the \$3.35 an hour



minimum wage grew from 5.1 million in 1981 to 7.8 million in 1987.

- since 1979 there has been a 35% increase in the number of families with children living in poverty. Social service budgets have been cut by nearly \$100 billion.
- by 1983, the wealthiest 1% of America's families owned 34.3% of the nation's wealth, up from 19.2% in 1976. They possess more wealth than the bottom 90%.
- Reagan's "tax reforms" reduced tax rates for the rich from 70% to 28%, while increasing federal taxes for low-income families. In 1960, corporations paid 23% of the federal tax burden; they now pay 6.9%, a saving of \$120 billion per year, and use these savings for takeovers and higher executive salaries rather than letting them "trickle down" to the workers. These takeovers usually mean fewer jobs (Campeau fired 1700 from his newly-acquired department stores.)

So, the question for the 1988 election is whether Americans will go for four more years of this with Bush or let Dukakis put on a few band-aids. Right now the election odds seem about 50-50. If Dukakis does win, it seems that the size of his band-aids will be skimpy indeed. For one thing, the Democrats' convention rejected by a 2.5-to-1 margin a proposal to invite the corporations to pay a more proportionate share of the taxes. And, as Allan Fotheringham points out in a recent column (Toronto Slime 28-7-88 p12), the cost of the average U.S. senate campaign has risen from \$87,200 in 1976 to over \$3 million in 1986, sums that candidates can raise only from corporations in return for voting as corporate lobbyists direct. Since the corporations won't pay more taxes, nobody else can and the Democrats are committed to high military spending there won't be much money for more social welfare.

With the corporations controlling the politicians, there is no way the U.S. political system can reform itself from within. This means that an economic collapse is inevitable, and those who feel that the sooner this collapse weakens the USA and its satellites (such as Canada) the better might well hope for a Bush victory. On the other hand, if Dukakis slows down the process a little it might help give us time to establish an alternative economy before the collapse, provided we get to work immediately. Neither argument will cut much ice with the 50% of the U.S. electorate who aren't expected to vote.

Fighting for Forests

Summer has started in the Brazilian Amazon. Cattle ranches and land speculators have renewed the burning of the forests that last year rained ash upon cities and towns across the Amazon. This year, the rubber tappers (seringueiros) of Acre state are resisting deforestation. After peaceful initiatives by rubber tappers in Xapuri, Acre, to halt deforestation unidentified gunmen shot two, and killed one rubber tapper in an attempt to crush the rubber tappers movement in defense of the forest.

On May 14 the Xapuri, Acre rubber tappers union demonstrated at Seringal (rubber estate) to halt unauthorized deforestation by a cattle rancher. The cattle rancher obtained a judicial order for Military Police to

remove the demonstrating rubber tappers on May 20, as well as a license to deforest from the municipal office of the Brazilian Institute for forestry development (IBDF).

On May 22, the seringueiros held a second demonstration. The rancher was clearcutting, clearing around streams, and cutting down rubber and Brazil nut trees, all of which are prohibited by Brazilian forest legislation.

On May 24, the Institute for Amazon Studies, an environmental organization that works with the seringueiros, initiated a legal action against the cattle rancher and IBDF, alleging irregularities in the license. Chico Mendes, the local seringueiro leader who organized the demonstrations, began a hunger strike in protest.

On May 25, 300 seringueiros from Xapuri occupied the IBDF office in their municipality, demanding a halt to the illegal deforestation threatening their livelihood. Simultaneously, the Brazilian green party occupied the IBDF office in Rio de Janeiro, in solidarity with the seringueiros.

On May 26, two rubber tappers in the IBDF office were shot by unidentified gunmen. Both were hospitalized in the state capital, Rio Branco.

On June 18, Ivair Higino De Almedia, Xapuri Rural Union Member and candidate to the city council, was shot to death as he left his house in Xapuri. It is suspected that the same people are responsible for Ivair's death as for the earlier shootings. No one has been indicted in the previous shootings. These crimes are a clear attempt to stop the rubber tappers resistance to deforestation and crush their fight for their land rights.

Salmon Scam

In 1982, the U.S. government spent over \$350,000 to entrap and convict five members of the Yakima Indian Nation, whose "crime" was to exercise their traditional religion by fishing for salmon. Although tribal court found that they had been entrapped by federal law enforcement officials, federal courts gave them long prison sentences. While in jail, they have been denied their religious practices, such as having an eagle feather and eating a subsistence salmon diet. As a result, one of the victims, David Sohappy Sr., an elder in the indigenous Feather religion, suffered a form of paralytic stroke common to traditional people uprooted from their cul-

tural context. He was released after serving 21 months, his left arm still paralyzed. Two other victims, Wilbur Slockish and Leroy Yocash, remain imprisoned in Minnesota and Texas respectively. Further information from the Columbia River Defense Project, 503-289-4585. (South Sound Alliance, Community Economics Issue.)



Tear the Walls Down *(from pg 1)*

in front of the Don Jail (Gerrard St. at Broadview)

3.Public Meeting: People, Prisons & Popular Struggles

With speakers from community groups, Native rights, political prisoners, womens' and international solidarity organizations. 7:30 p.m. at Ralph Thornton Centre 765 Queen Street E. (2 E. of Broadview)

For more information or to send donations get in touch with the prison Justice Day Committee at 56 Mitchell Av. Toronto M6J 1B9, or call between noon and 7 p.m. 868-6535

Media Watch



The silliest recent newspaper feature article, written by Richard Gwyn in the Toronto Star (31-7-88 pE1), attempts to link five current peace initiatives to society's compulsive fascination with making money. Gwyn admits that there are 25 current wars, not counting the ones in Palestine and Northern Ireland that haven't yet hit the qualifying mark of 1,000 deaths. If he'd done his research properly, he would have worked out how many of these 25 wars are linked to the very fixation with money (of the corporations) to which he attributes the peace initiatives.

Gathering Media

The corporate media saw a "story" in this years Anarchist Survival Gathering and spared no space in printing their lies and opinions. These "stories" began one month before the Gathering and have just recently ended.

Now you can have a package of all propaganda printed in Toronto's mainstream press - from the fictional report of 15,000 Neo-Nazis who were to attend, to the endless photos of police brutality at the demo, to the hilarious editorials and columnists' ravings! 29 pages of fun for only \$3.00. (checks can be made payable and mailed to Ecomedia-Toronto)

Peace Bash

The 5th Youth Peace Bash is being held in Guelph this year from Aug. 12-15 at the Guelph Lake Conservation area. Camping, Bands, workshops, fun. For info call: (519) 763-1784

Not Just Tuna

Ecomedia readers may have heard in the past of the dolphin slaughter occurring off the coast of Mexico. Over 150 000 dolphins are dying torturous deaths every year so the tuna fishing industry can make a few extra dollars. The way to stop this slaughter is to harass the big companies behind the dolphin murders, the two biggest murderers are Heinz and Ralston Purina. People need to know that these companies are killing Flipper to increase their profits. To this end, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is holding a Tuna Free Month in September and they need help. Join the boycott and organize rallies. Populations of the Eastern Spinner Dolphin and Spotted Dolphin have been depleted by 58% and 80% respectively, from their original levels. The tuna industry is driving dolphins toward extinction. There are information sheets and boycott lists available from Sea Shepherd, and they would like to know if anyone in this area is interested in taking part in boycott activities. If you want to get in touch with them, their number is 916-753-8625, that's 916-753-8625.

Stop the Spray (cont from pg 1)

positive response, and the spraying is slated to go ahead.

During the week of July 25-30, some of the residents and their supporters conducted a picket in front of the North Shore Forestry Co-op in Tatamagouche; despite support from the public little action has come from the Forest Dept.

The Truro residents see the Forestry Co-op working hand in hand with the government to get access to privately owned lands for the pulp industry and in turn promoting the use of herbicides in forestry.

Area residents have now taken direct action. A blockade was started on Thursday, August 4 at the site. They are encouraging other residents who live near spray locations to do the same, in order to stop this environmentally dangerous practise.

Ecomedia Toronto

The *Ecomedia Bulletin* is a bi-weekly publication of the Ecomedia Toronto Office. The Ecomedia Group currently needs people to help distribute the Bulletin in new areas. We could also use more help in writing and production. Submissions may be edited for length, so keep it short. If you'd like to give us a hand, we meet every 2 weeks. Please write to find out meeting times and location (address on front logo).

Our circulation is currently 1600, but we need help both financially and labourwise to increase our work, so please consider getting involved.

Tune in your radio to the *Ecomedia Report*. We're now heard once a week on the *Word of Mouth* show, every Tuesday between 7 and 8pm on CKLN 88.1 FM. If you live in or near the Toronto area, please give us a listen.

Subscriptions to the *Ecomedia Bulletin* may be had for \$12/year; subscribers will receive a package every 2 issues (every 4 weeks) to save mailing costs.